6.	Kullu	1998	3429
7.	Lahul & Spiti	87	54
8.	Hamirpur	5748	5000
9.	Bilaspur	2252	3500
10.	Una	3395	4000
11.	Shimla	7112	2000
12.	Kinnaur	900	500
	TOTAL	46718	48255

Waiting List of telephones in Ludhiana

429. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased state:

(a) the waiting list of telephone connections in Ludhiana as on February, 1997;

(b) by when the telephones in Ludhiana are likely to be available on demand; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The waiting list of telephone connections in Ludhiana as on 2st February, 1997 is 29216.

(b) Telephone availability on demand is expected during 97-98 in most of the areas in Ludhiana.

(c) In this regard, 85,000 lines switching equipments have been planned to be commissioned in Ludhiana during 1996-97.

Tampering of pulse reading instruments in Hyderabad

430. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether users of public telephone booths are being cheated by unscrupulous operators who tamper with the pulse reading instruments to inflate the bill especially in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the action taken against the unauthorised persons running the booths allotted to physically handicapped or unemployed youths; and

(c) the steps taken to save public from the unscrupulous STD booth operators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, in Hyderabad one such case has come to notice of Department of Telecom.

(b) The PCO has been disconnected.

(c) Periodic inspections/surprise checks are being carried out to ensure proper billing and operation by proper attendants. Charging by STD Booth operators/attendants is compared with call units recorded at the exchange during checks. Instructions have also been issued to all the Telecom Circles to ensure that STD PCO franchisees display the rate chart for charging of calls for different periods/distances prominently in their STD Booths.

Providing telephone facilities in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh

431. DR. Y. LAKSHMIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to provide telephone facilities in rural areas in the country on priority basis;